

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 SSM-03 /063 W
----- 009171

R 141503Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5241

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: RUMOR OF CABINET CHANGES

1. WE HAVE BEEN HEARING RUMOR THAT PRES SADAT INTENDS TO MAKE CHANGES IN CABINET, PERHAPS JUST AFTER JULY 23 NATIONAL DAY. MAIN REASON FOR SWITCH SAID TO BE RELIEF OF PM SALIM FROM HIS DUTIES TO ALLOW HIM TO DEVOTE FULL ENERGIES TO PREPARATIONS FOR OCTOBER NATIONAL ELECTIONS. CANDIDATES TO REPLACE SALIM, AS AT LEAST INTERIM PM UNTIL NOVEMBER SUPPOSEDLY INCLUDE FONMIN FAHMY, RECENTLY APPOINTED FIRST SECRETARY OF ASU MUSTAFA KHALIL AND FORMER MININFO HATIM. SUBJECT PUBLICLY RAISED JULY 8 IN PRESS ARTICLE BY GUMHURRIYA CHAIRMAN SAWI, WHO REPORTED SALIM'S DENIAL THAT CHANGE CONTEMPLATED.

2. WHILE THER LITTLE TO SUBSTANTIATE RUMORS, WE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

A) SALIM HAS ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTY OF FULFILLING BOTH GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION RESPONSIBILITIES SINCE BEGINNING OF HIS TENURE;

B) MUSTAFA KHALIL HAS RECENTLY COME TO IMPORTANT ASU
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POSITION AFTER HAVING TURNED DOWN DEPUTY PREMIERSHIP

REPEATEDLY OUT OF DESIRE TO ENTER GOVERNMENT ONLY WITH FULL
POWERS TO ACCOMPLISH ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES;

C) HATIM(MOST RECENT ADDITION TO LIST), WHILE OUT OF
GOVERNMENT, STILL EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL AND HAS MANY LOYAL
SUPPORTERS IN BUREAUCRACY.

3. THUS FAR, GOE SPONSORED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION (ARAB
SOCIALISTS) HAS MADE POOR SHOWING IN ORGANIZING POPULAR
SUPPORT. IN LIGHT IMPORTANCE OF OCTOBE ELECTIONS TO PRES
SADAT, RUMORED CABINET CHANGE SEEMS POSSIBLE, AT LEAST IN
PRINCIPLE.
EILTS

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